

Bromyard Urban District

HEREFORDSHIRE



ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

State of the Public Health

For the Year 1943

Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health H. F. GREEN, M.A., M.B., D.P.H.
(On War Service from 17/7/42)

Acting Medical Officer of Health I. F. MACKENZIE, M.B., Ch.B.,
(Deputy County Medical Officer) D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.
(Private Tele., Weobley 59)

Area Medical Offices : 4, Church Street, Leominster (Tel., Leom. 95)

Clerk in Northern Area Medical Office B. J. SCANDRETT
(On War Service from 1939)

Temporary Clerk MISS D. M. J. BRAMFITT

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor T. S. WATTS, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.,
(Part-time) Cert. Meat Inspector.

To the Chairman and Members of Bromyard Urban Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1943.

Throughout the year the health of the community has continued to be remarkably good and no major outbreaks of notifiable or non-notifiable disease occurred.

Your Sanitary Inspector and I maintain close co-operation on all matters affecting the health of the community. I am happy to acknowledge again my appreciation of the thorough manner in which he discharges the duties of his position, for this contributes, in no small measure, to the effective execution, under war-time conditions, of the Health Services of the Council.

I am, Your obedient Servant,

I. F. MACKENZIE,
Acting Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1944.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA:

Area (in Acres)	213
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1943) according to the Rate Books	495
Rateable Value	£8,868
Sum represented by a penny rate	£34 17 6

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR:

BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 of estimated resident population)	19.6
STILLBIRTH RATE. No Still Births were recorded.	
DEATH RATE (per 1,000 of estimated resident population)	15.6
INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 live births)	29.4
DEATHS FROM Puerperal Causes: No deaths in 1943 were attributable to Puerperal or Maternal causes.	

COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1943:—

Birth Rate	16.5
Still Birth Rate	0.5
Death Rate	12.1
Infantile Mortality Rate	49.0

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA:

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Laboratory facilities continued to be available at the County Public Health Laboratory, Hereford, which, for the duration of the war, is under the administration of the Medical Research Council.

CLINICS.

There are no Clinics provided by the Authority. Under a County Council scheme a Child Welfare Clinic is held twice monthly.

The nearest Venereal Diseases Clinic is at the County Council Hospital, Hereford.

I am indebted to Mr. T. S. Watts, Sanitary Inspector to the Council, for the following statement (Sections C to E) furnished under Article 27 (sub-Section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER : SAMPLING.

Samples are taken periodically. A Chlorination Plant has been installed and the results of all samples taken during the year have been satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No adequate means of sewage purification exists. The sewage is discharged into the river in its crude state. Plans for a sewage disposal scheme were made in 1937 but the proposal was not carried through due to the outbreak of hostilities.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The only matters noted under this heading are dealt with in the previous paragraph.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The collection of refuse in the town is undertaken by a Contractor. The service during the year has been satisfactory and no complaints were received.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

INSPECTIONS :				No. of Inspections	Informal Notices served	Statutory Notices served	Notices complied with
Housing and Public Health							
Acts	...	...	...	40	11	—	10
Factories	...	...	...	32	2	—	2
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	35	—	—	—
Dairies	...	...	...	31	—	—	—
Schools	...	...	...	4	—	—	—
Water Supplies	...	...	...	41	—	—	—
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	11	—	—	—
Complaints	...	...	...	10	2	—	2

DEFECTS REMEDIED :

Chimney Stacks	...	...	4	New Drains	...	...	...	1
Roofs	...	...	5	New Sinks	...	...	...	2
Drains cleared	...	...	22	New W.C. Pans	...	...	...	5
Drains repaired	...	...	6	Flushing Cisterns provided	...	...	...	5

FACTORIES :

(a) With Mechanical Power.	(b) Without Mechanical Power.
No. of Inspections	...
20	12
Defects found	...
1	1
Defects remedied	...
1	1

CAMPING SITES.—There are no registered sites in the Area.

BED BUGS.—No reports of infestation received.

SECTION D. HOUSING.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts ...	20
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	40
2. Number of dwelling houses found not to be, in all respects, reasonably fit for human habitation	11

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :

Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied Nil

Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied by service of formal notices :

(a) By Owners Nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... Nil

VAN DWELLINGS: Nil.

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK.

There are no milk producers within the Urban District. Inspection of the Dairies in town is carried out regularly and samples are taken when necessary. Most of the milk retailed in town is sampled outside the district.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

All meat now brought into the District is inspected at the place of slaughter, which is under the control of the Ministry of Food. No cases of diseased or unsound meat have been noted during the year.

FOOD FOUND TO BE UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

The following foods were examined, found unsound and destroyed:

Tinned Milk	52 tins ...	weight	30 lbs.
Tinned Meat	41 tins ...	,,	120 lbs.
Tinned Vegetables	48 tins ...	,,	24 lbs.
Miscellaneous tinned Foods	51 tins ...	,,	40 lbs.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During 1943 Scarlet Fever of a mild character was prevalent, and sixteen cases were notified. The usual mode of spread of this disease is personal contact between a susceptible person and another person harbouring the organism in an unhealthy throat or nose. A certain number of individuals are carriers of the germ and if there is an increase in the proportion of susceptible persons in the community (who are usually young children in an urban area), a higher incidence of the disease results. This is the principal factor responsible for the increased incidence recorded in this report.

A complete list of the notifications is provided in the accompanying analysis in tabular form.

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES, ACCORDING TO AGE :

DISEASE	AGE OF PATIENT													Over known	Un- known	Ttl
	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40	40			
Scarlet Fever	...	—	—	1	1	1	1	4	2	2	—	1	1	1	1	16
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	3
Acute Primary																
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Measles	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Whooping Cough	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Cerebro Spinal																
Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

DIPH THERIA IMMUNISATION.

The state of immunisation of the child population of the district at the end of 1943 is indicated in the table below :—

Number	Under 5 years of age	Percentage of group	Between 5 and 15 years of age	
	Number		Number	Percentage of group
78	56.9%		261	87.5%

TUBERCULOSIS.

At the end of 1943 the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of two males and six females who normally reside within the district. During the year three new cases were notified on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. During the same period three deaths from this disease occurred.

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages).

DISEASE	Males						Females		Total
	
Tuberculosis	1	1	1	2
Cancer (all forms)	1	1	1	2
Heart and Blood Vessels	7	7	7	7	14
Bronchitis	0	2	0	2	2
Diabetes	2	0	0	0	2
Nephritis	1	1	1	1	2
Congenital Malformation	1	0	0	0	1
Violence	1	0	0	0	1
Other Causes	0	1	1	1	1
TOTALS	14	13	13	13	27